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Art on the Dock
Works on display on Kennisis Lake. See page 3.

Head Bangers
Fun facts about woodpeckers. See page 6.

A Pilot's Tale
Nephew pens book about uncle's service in WWII. See page 11.

Framed by out of focus yellow blossoms, horses graze in the distance on a pasture at a Minden farm on Wednesday, Aug. 12. /DARREN LUM Staff

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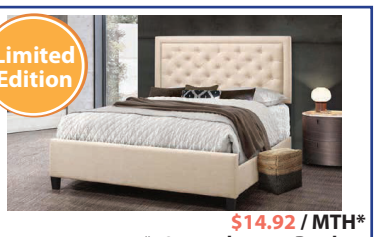
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Minden Pride goes online amid pandemic

CHAD INGRAM
County Life Staff

The fifth annual Minden Pride festival will proceed amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, with many events taking place virtually.

Minden Pride will run Aug. 24 through 30, with festivities kicked off by a raising of the rainbow flag at the Minden Hills municipal office on Monday, Aug. 24. While residents are normally invited to congregate in the parking lot for this event, at press time, the plan was to broadcast the flag-raising on the internet, through a video link that will be shared at a later date. The flag raising will take place at 11 a.m.

On the evening of Aug. 24, there will be a free showing of films at Abbey Gardens' Little Pit Drive-In.

"Watch the award-winning feature film *Pariah* and short, *Trevor*, both dealing with the challenges of coming out, and identifying as lesbian and gay," reads a release from organizers. In addition, there will be two surprise videos.

Gates open at 7 p.m., with the films shown at dusk. There is a 30-car limit, so those wishing to attend are asked to pre-register at abbeygardens.ca/littlepit-drivein

Pizza, beer and treats will be available by advanced order, and there will be prizes for the best-decorated vehicle. The rain date for the show is Aug. 25.

Tuesday, Aug. 25 will see the launch of *Building Business in our Community*, a video produced by Sticks and Stones Media and focusing on the community of Minden Pride. The video will be broadcast at 7 p.m., followed by a discussion on online teleconferencing platform Zoom, and those interested are asked to pre-register at curtaintalk@mindenpride.ca.

The launch of video *Our Community Speaks Out*, also produced by Sticks and Stones, is set to happen at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 26, with those interested again asked to pre-register at curtaintalk@mindenpride.ca

A virtual Minden Pride trivia night will take place from 8 to 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 27. Hosted by Jack Brezina and Sean Pennylegion, the evening will be a test of LGBTQ+2 trivia and will take place via Zoom. A fun team name and email address will be required for each team, and those interested in playing are asked to register by noon on Aug. 27 by emailing trivianight@mindenpride.ca.

On Friday, Aug. 28, you're invited to put on your dancing shoes and shake your booty online at the Completely Outrageous Virtually Incredible Dance Party, which will run from 8 to 10 p.m. Dancers are asked to register at COVIDparty@mindenpride.ca. There will be door prizes for the best costumes.

On Saturday, Aug. 29, Mindenites are invited to show their pride by wearing their pride colours around town, at the farmers' market, or floating down the Gull River. Share your photos on social media by tagging Minden Pride, which is active on Instagram, Facebook and Tik Tok.

Finally, this year's Minden Pride will wrap up with a multi-faith service led by Rev. Max Ward of the Highland Hills United Church on Sunday. Aug. 30.. That ceremony will take place at 1 p.m., and those interested are asked to pre-register at multifaith@mindenpride.ca

County Life

The following inserts are being distributed with County Life this week:

Canadian Tire *
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Godfather's Pizza *
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Minden Valumart *
Pharmasave *
Rexall *
Shoppers Drug Mart Haliburton *
Todd's Independent *
TSC *

All inserts are to selected distribution areas.

For information on how your flyer can be inserted each week in County Life please contact Melissa Armstrong at **613-332-2002** or **melissa@haliburtonpress.com**

This Old NEWSPAPER ?!
Reader Contest

WE CHALLENGE YOU TO RECYCLE NEWSPAPERS INTO SOMETHING NEW

Send submissions to this newspaper. Entries will also be submitted to the Ontario Community Newspapers Association for consideration in a provincial contest.

Rules:

1. Participants must repurpose newspaper into something creative and/or functional (anything goes - ballgown, basket, lampshade) and submit it to this newspaper.

Note: While a piece created 100% of newspaper is ideal, we recognize that other materials may be necessary for framework and stability. Therefore, a piece MUST consist of at least 70% recycled newspaper. Of course, it must also be appropriate for the public to admire.

2. In addition to a brief description about the participant's creation, a series of photos or videos taken during the construction process must also be submitted.

Categories Include:
- Open
- Junior under 12
- Family

PUBLIC VIRTUAL GALLERY SHOWCASE

ocna Ontario Community Newspapers Association

$1000
PROVINCIAL PRIZE

Isla Williams, a 12-year-old Standard Newspaper carrier in Uxbridge used leftover newspapers to design a custom dress

Art on the Dock

Above, Lynda Henry shows some of her acrylic canvases, influenced by the Haliburton School of Art + Design, during the annual Art on the Dock tour on Kennisis Lake.

Right, Savannah Tomev with her paddles and paintings. Savannah is studying American sign language at George Brown.

Brian Kalanda showing some beautiful hand-carved wood pieces from locally-sourced logs. /HUW MORGAN
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IN THE HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

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Check out details and times at **www.mindenpride.ca**

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Flag Raising
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MONDAY AUGUST 24
FREE DRIVE-IN MOVIE NIGHT
Feature Film and Shorts
Pizza and Brews available on site, door prizes for best decorated vehicle. Register at movienight@mindenpride.ca

TUESDAY AUGUST 25
Launch of Minden Pride Video - "Building Business with Pride"
Join us in a ZOOM post launch chat, register at curtaintalk@mindenpride.ca

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 26
Launch of Minden Pride Video - "Our Community Speaks Out"
Join us in a ZOOM post launch chat, register at curtaintalk@mindenpride.ca

THURSDAY AUGUST 27
Virtual Minden Pride Trivia Night
Time: 8-9:30pm. Preregister by noon at trivianight@mindenpride.ca

FRIDAY AUGUST 28
The COMPLETELY OUTRAGEOUS VIRTUALLY INCREDIBLE DANCE PARTY
Time: 8-10pm. Door prizes for the best costume. Register by noon at COVIDparty@mindenpride.ca

SATURDAY AUGUST 29
Parade your PRIDE Colours
Find a creative way to celebrate **Minden Pride's 5th year** and support local businesses. Tag us with your fun activity for a chance to win prizes. Learn more at www.mindenpride.ca

SUNDAY AUGUST 30
Multi-faith Service
Time: 1pm. Led by Rev. Max Ward. Register at mulitfaith@mindenpride.ca

This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada through the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario.

Canada

Follow us for event details & information

Minden_Pride Minden Pride MindenPride

Going for the green

Above, golfer Dennis Hartwig chips for the green during the weekly recreational golf league on Thursday, Aug. 13 at the Pinestone Resort and Conference Centre's golf course in Haliburton. Golfers started on the back nine and each had their own carts, as part of measures to reduce the spread of the coronavirus. /DARREN LUM Staff

Right, golfer Peter Forgrave drives from the tee.

Community Events

Send your events listing to Pat Lewis at classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Dinner and Concert

When: Saturday, Aug. 22, 5:30 p.m.
Where: Abbey Gardens
Enjoy an evening out at Abbey Gardens including dinner and music performed by John McDermott, Jason Fowler and Mark Lalama. Dinner starts at 5:30 p.m., first set starts at 7 p.m. Funds go to Abbey Gardens. $150 per person.
Contact: Janis Parker at janis@parkerpad.com, for tickets.

Minden Pride

When: Aug. 24 to 30
Help celebrate diversity and inclusiveness in the Haliburton Highlands. Join us online or in person for our week of amazing events. Check our website for details and times: mindenpride.ca

Bake Sale – Drive-In

When: Saturday, Sept. 5, 10 a.m.
Where: Maple Lake United Church, corner of Airport Road and Hwy #118
Pre-orders welcomed. Call Shirley Johnston 705-754-3865 or Beverly Upton 705-286-2130

Recurring Events

Farmers' Markets

Minden: Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Minden Fairgrounds (until Oct. 13)
Haliburton: Tuesdays from noon to 4 p.m., Rotary Park in Haliburton - enter from Park Street (until Oct. 10)
Stanhope: Fridays from noon to 4 p.m., Stanhope Community Centre, outside (until Sept. 4)
Offering local seasonal produce, meats, cheeses, baked goods, preserves, prepared foods and more. Observing COVID-19 shopping rules. See more at www.hcfma.ca.

Little-Pit Drive-In Movies

When: Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m.
Where: Abbey Gardens, 1012 Garden Gate Drive, off Hwy 118 near West Guilford
Canada's first off-grid drive-in, offering double features on Wednesday evenings. Tickets are $50 per vehicle, food and beverages can be purchased online in advance. Tickets must be reserved. Go to abbeygardens.ca for more information.

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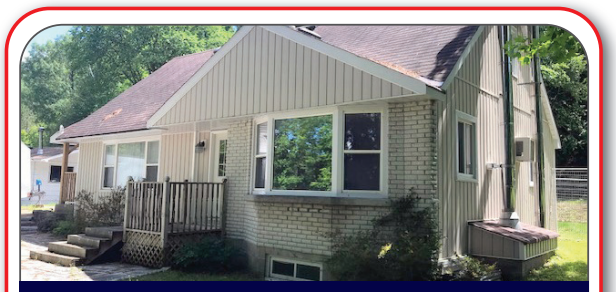

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Send your letters to the editor to jenn@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed and include a phone number.

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Fun facts about woodpeckers

MONIKA MELICHAR
Special to *County Life*

Woodpeckers are instantly recognizable by the unique way they scale trees, hammering away without seemingly getting a headache.

The downy woodpecker is the most common woodpecker in North America and one of nine species in Ontario. The largest being the pileated woodpecker and then there are the sapsuckers and flickers.

These fascinating birds live a life of hard knocks – literally, and can hammer a tree trunk 100 times per minute! That's about 12 thousand head bangers on an average day.

Their reinforced skulls are designed to handle the impacts, and their brains are tightly wrapped by muscles, and so like a helmet, they are well protected from all that repeated jostling.

But this is only true when the impact is from the proper direction, and are just as susceptible as other birds to fatal window collisions if they hit the glass on a bad angle.

Woodies need more than just a strong skull to withstand the force of their endeavours. They also have powerful neck muscles, a rather flexible spine, and a most unique tongue.

A woodpeckers tongue is about three times the length of its bill, and is retractable, wrapping around the skull when not in use. Many woodpeckers have barbs on the tip of their tongue to help them snag bugs. Sapsuckers, whose tongues have stiff hairs instead of barbs, lap up sap and the small insects attracted to the sweet liquid.

So how do they stay so securely attached to a tree without falling down?

The largest woodpecker in North America is the pileated woodpecker. /Submitted

While most birds have feet with three toes forward and one pointing back, woodies have two toes facing forward and two toes facing back. Their claws are longer and thicker than most other birds, and by using their stiff spikey tail feathers, they can create a tripod effect to brace themselves and climb on any roughened surface.

A hammering woodpecker can create a bounty of slivered wood. So how do they protect themselves from all those splinters and sawdust?

Woodpeckers are equipped with bristles or soft feathers around their nostrils to protect them from breathing it in, while a translucent third eyelid closes just before a woodpecker hits the wood with its bill. So they are in fact drilling blind!

Woodpeckers can't carry a tune, but they can certainly chatter, chirp and scream out in alarm. What they do best is carry a beat. If they want to be heard, loud and clear, as they look for a mate or to mark their territory, they'll drum on anything that resonates, including hydro poles, chimneys, rain gutters, metal roofing, even your old TV antenna, which we had to take down just to stop the ruckus from our resident pecker.

And finally, did you know that sapsuckers have developed a beautiful partnership with hummingbirds? The composition of sap is similar to nectar and is filled with nutrients, including sugars, minerals, and amino acids. As sapsuckers drill their holes to extract tree sap, hummingbirds will follow them, lapping up the sap too. In return, the hummers chase off any larger birds that try to feed off the sap, preserving the food for both of them. This is how our hummers feed themselves if there is a shortage of blooming flowers and nectar.

I just love this kind of harmony in nature!

Monika Melichar runs the Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary in Minden Hills, a volunteer-based charity that rehabilitates and releases sick, orphaned and injured wildlife back into the wild. To find out more about the sanctuary, go to woodlandswildlifesanctuary.ca.

Top 10 alternate reasons to get a new puppy

THERE ARE many reasons to get a puppy – not the least of which is that they are great companions. The obvious things such as the exercise they provide, and their inherent cuteness and comedic value immediately come to mind for most of us. But there are other reasons why getting a new pup makes sense too. Here are my top 10 .

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

1. Because the cats got a little too complacent.
2. You need a good excuse to buy new slippers.
3. To draw attention away from your COVID-19 haircut.
4. Poop and scoop might one day be an Olympic event.
5. Because you don't really need to sit on the couch.
6. Because training a dumb animal is fun – and a puppy deserves to have fun.
7. Because your hunting buddy is a lousy retriever.
8. You're not a fan of fire hydrants.
9. So your daughter will have someone else to dress up.
10. Better than an alarm clock.

Mask Parade

Masks were once more marginal: for doctors,
Hallowe'en,
Dentists, aestheticians, crooks and sports folk
needing screen
But these days population faces guidelines
which make sense:
Sanitize and cover up, converse through
'distance' fence

Litter always bothered me, those red cups
strewn on land
Bottles, cans and fast food dumps: my
heartache's mighty grand
And sometimes when I notice something
prone on road ahead
I pronto think that yet another creature
lies there dead

But often now it's not a sweet-eyed innocent expired
But someone's mask discarded, blown,
abandoned or retired
A mask, though, is our weapon to protect
and to prevent
Its mandatory smartness seems effective in descent

Of counted COVID cases in whichever place we live
It's one way citizens can work together and to give
Survival to loads more of us, though masks
can feel so 'wrong'

The right of worldwide humans is a chance
at living long

Plus mask design is trendy now, variety is spice
So wear a clean one proudly and your face
could look quite nice!
Gift one to an ill-equipped whose nose and
mouth are bare
Speak with eyes: they smile, you know, and
clearly show they care

Accountability is just so gorgeous and mature
Vision is magnanimous, big picture is the cure
Opinions are so awesome and define
what each brain thinks
But selfishness re. shunning masks or littering
just stinks

And don't, please, feel so pressured by 'the man'
to cover up
Don't, please, think it's just you feeling awkward
in cloth cup
PLEASE don't feel rebellious, cranky, dropping
mask to ground
Just style with pride, your look won't kill, and feel
less lost, more found

By Deborah J Reed

A welcome sign

Holding shovels, MPP Laurie Scott, from left at front, MP Jamie Schmale, Rotary Club of Haliburton president Ted Brandon and Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts joined Haliburton Rotarians, township staff and councillors for an official ground breaking ceremony for the new welcome centre in Haliburton's Head Lake Park on Wednesday, Aug. 5. TThe facility has an estimated budget of $450,000. There is $75,000 from the Rotary Club, $375,000 from the Federal government through its Canadian Experiences Fund, and council will cover any contingencies. It is expected to be completed in spring 2021. / DARREN LUM Staff

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GARDENS OF HALIBURTON

Haliburton & District Lions Club

presents

STORIES IN THE PARK FUN FAIR

Where? Head Lake Park, Haliburton

When? Wednesday, August 26th from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

How? Social Distancing all the way; disinfecting every item a child touches before it is used by another child. Safety is our number one priority and our number one commitment to all who participate! All current COVID-19 Phase 3 reopening protocols will be in place!

What is this free event for the children?

~ Games such as Bean Bag Toss, Fun Photo Boards, Giant Pick Up Sticks, Golf Putt About and many more!
~ Free book for every child
~ Story Reading at "The Story Tree"
~ Free hot dogs, juice boxes and popcorn!

Thanks to our Community Partners – The Haliburton Rotary Club, The Haliburton County Echo, Haliburton Highlands Museum, Moose FM and Canoe FM - as together we create a safe and fun day for our kids and their families!

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Jean Abernethy Presents
Fergus and the Greener Grass
From the Author of The Essential Fergus the Horse and Fergus: A Horse to Be Reckoned With
Jean Abernethy Presents
Fergus and 'ght Before Christmas

Jean Abernethy, who is in her eighth season helping instruct riders at South Algonquin Trails, said her experiences are used to write and illustrate her books, featuring Fergus the horse./DARREN LUM Staff

Highlands inspire Fergus the horse stories

DARREN LUM

County Life Staff

Jean Abernethy's love of horses and trail guide experiences in the Highlands are the foundation for her cartoon character, Fergus.

Fergus is the title horse character in a series of humourous books written and illustrated by Abernethy, who has spent the last eight horse riding seasons helping instruct riders at Tammy Donaldson's South Algonquin Trails based in Harcourt.

She said the Fergus comics started as a response to the demand of fans after 10 years of drawing generic horse characters.

"Folks who enjoyed my cartoons seemed to want a singular character. So I invented Fergus. Then he needed support characters for dialogue. The story-telling is just fun! The accumulation of comics led to the books," she wrote in email.

The Ontario College of Art and Design art graduate grew up on a small family farm located near Lindsay, Ontario where she saw the world from the saddle of her horse.

She has more than 30 years of experience producing comical horse cartoons for equine print publications, and counts more than 300,000 Facebook fans for Fergus, who has up to this point appeared in four published books.

Her work comes from a passion for art and how horses have become entwined with her life.

"I love both the challenge and satisfaction of making a beautiful image, or in the case of the cartoons, an effective image. What I love about horses is ... well ... everything. Horses have given me a lifestyle and a career. Throughout my life, horses have always been my rudder," she wrote in an email.

Abernethy, who pursued a college education in equestrian studies at Humber College, has diverse experiences related to horses, whether it was saddle making, working as a barn hand, carriage driver, or as a trail guide.

"Fergus is based upon every horse I've ever known. His white face and markings are based loosely on a fine bay gelding whom I had during my high school years," she said.

Her experience at the Harcourt horse riding operation as a teacher has provided important learning lessons.

"This is my eighth season working at South Algonquin Trails. The past seven seasons have shown me such a wide variety of colourful equine characters. As equestrians, we're taught from the get-go, to judge horses. When I first came here I judged the horses for what/who they were not. Throughout the seasons, I have learned to appreciate the horses for who they are. I am grateful for the lessons," she said.

As far as what's next, Abernethy isn't sure, leaving it to Fergus.

"Just hold that thought. I've asked him where he wants to go next ... at some point I'll get an answer," she wrote.

Learn more about the author at www.jeanabernethy.com or about Fergus at his website, www.fergusthehorse.com.

Purchase the book online or locally at Haliburton's Master's Bookstore, which can order the book upon request. The store is open to the public with extended summer hours, Monday to Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Little Bob Lake $693,000

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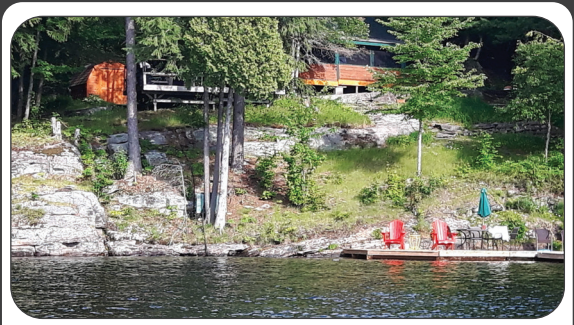

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Here are the images attached that won first place in the contest for each category. The categories were:

M – Maple leaves
I – Imagination
N – Nature
D – Doorways
E – Essential Workers
N – National foods of Canada

M

Photo by: Wendy Evenden

I

Photo by: Veronica Psotka

N

Photo by: Natalie Hislop

D

Photo by: David Thaler

E

Photo by: Wendy Vermeersch

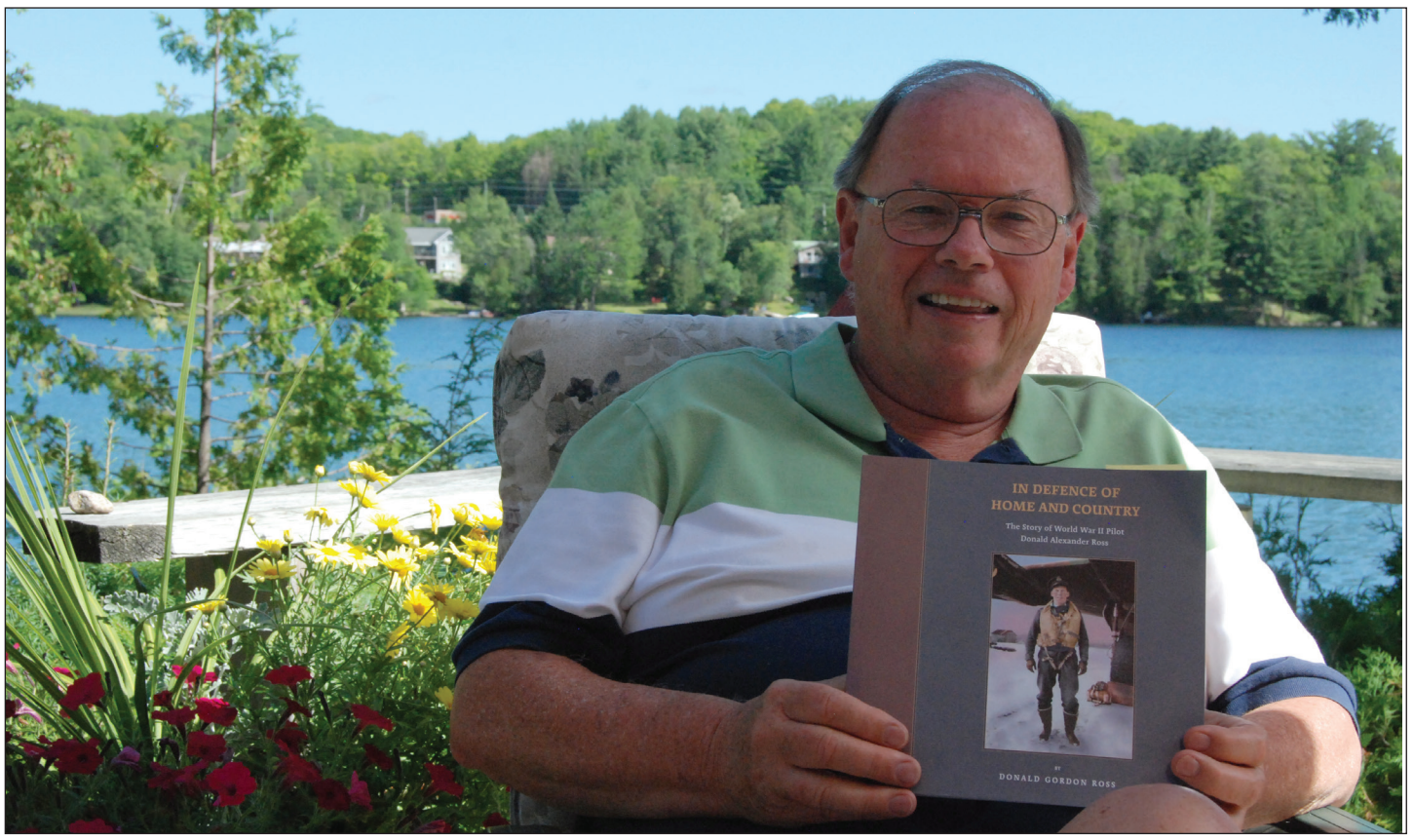
N

Photo by: Adria Scarano

Each winner received a $100 gift card to a local Minden business of their choosing.
Congratulations!

Nephew pens book about pilot's service in WWII, 75 years later

JENN WATT
County Life Editor



Haliburton area cottager Don Ross sits on his deck with a copy of his latest book, *In Defence of Home and Country: The Story of World War II Pilot Donald Alexander Ross*, about his uncle with whom he shares a name. His uncle died on a mission over Germany in 1945 and Ross recently decided to chronicle his life for the benefit of future generations and to tell the extraordinary story of an ordinary pilot. /JENN WATT Staff

Don Ross never met the uncle after whom he is named, but after spending countless hours working on the book *In Defence of Home and Country: The Story of World War II Pilot Donald Alexander Ross*, the Haliburton cottager said he feels like he knows him.

The story of Donald A. Ross, a Canadian pilot who died in the Second World War, was "extraordinary because it's not unique," his nephew said, seated on his dock overlooking Grass Lake. "In other words, there's thousands of stories like that."

And that's why it's important to document, he said. His uncle's decision to enlist with the Royal Canadian Air Force – for which he paid the ultimate price when his plane crashed over Germany in 1944 – was not uncommon.

"What I tried to do was illustrate in the book the story – because he was a rather remarkable man, he was an all-round sportsman, he was the eldest sibling – the impact he had in a short period of time. He trained hundreds of pilots to fly, he made a huge contribution before he died at 29," Ross said.

Donald A. Ross of Toronto enlisted with the RCAF in 1940, determined to become a pilot. Because he was colour-blind, he initially wasn't approved to go overseas, but that decision was reversed not long after. "Whether he had finessed a way to clear the way for an overseas posting, we don't know, but clearly he himself reapplied," Ross writes. "Or perhaps the RCAF was desperate for good pilot material and bent the rules. We'll never know!"

In the intervening years, he taught as a flight instructor, with the chief instructor noting him as "an above average pilot … steady and calm … Good personality." He instructed for two years in Alberta and Saskatchewan before being posted overseas, arriving in England Feb. 15, 1944.

Flight Lieutenant Ross's story is complicated by the intricacies of human life. He wasn't just an airman, he was also a devoted husband to his high school sweetheart, Kay, and a beloved son in a family with four other siblings, including Don G. Ross's father, Gord. When Flt. Lt. Ross left for England, his wife was four months pregnant with their daughter Beverley. He would never get the opportunity to meet his child.

During his time overseas, Flt. Lt. Ross wrote to his family members, including his brother Gord. It was the discovery of six of those letters that spurred Don G. Ross to begin researching his late uncle, initially with the intention of writing short stories.

"When my mother passed away, in her effects I found six of those old, blue airmail letters that my uncle Don … that he had written to my father, Gord, when he was overseas," Ross said. "He was a very neat writer and he was very informative. There were six letters and I had the idea that I might be able to write something [like a] sort of short story that would give insight into the life of an airman overseas during the war, from what he did."

He started to talk to his cousin, Bev, Flt. Lt. Ross's daughter, and found that she had been collecting information and artifacts from her father's life.

"The more I started into this, the more I thought, nobody in this family knows about this family member who sacrificed his life for his country. … I'm going to try to write his life story in a readable fashion that would illustrate what it was like to be an airman, what kind of sacrifices they had to make, what the family had to go through because his plane went down and he was killed in it on a mission."

Flt. Lt. Ross's Lancaster bomber crashed on March 5, 1945 likely after colliding with an escort fighter aircraft on its way to Chemnitz, Germany. Only the rear gunner survived; he parachuted to the ground where he was captured as a prisoner of war.

Don G. Ross highlighted the brutal nature of war in his passage about his uncle's bombing mission and death: "Bomber Command lost 7,449 bombers and 47,130 aircrew during operations [in the Second World War]. Seventy German cities were devastated by air attacks. Five hundred thousand bombs rained down on Germany and caused between 500-600,000 deaths and destroyed 3.5 million homes. … Given a choice, many would have refused to kill thousands of innocent women and children by firebombing their homes. But no one gave them that choice. The brutality of strategic bombing was on an impersonal military level. No wonder that many soldiers who survived the war didn't want to talk about it!"

One of the secrets Flt. Lt. Ross kept from his wife and parents was that he was engaged in operations, instead telling them he was training. The knowledge of his real work was divulged to his brother Gord in letters.

"Please don't mention anything to Kay or Mom about Ops [operations], as to them I'll still be in training … they might worry," he wrote.

In a letter to Kay in December 1944, when he had already been engaged in ops for nearly a month, he wrote, "I can't see an earthly chance of getting in Ops before the war's end! Just train and wait."

Today, his nephew wonders what effect that secret would have had on his family when news of his death was delivered. They thought their loved one was safely training, unlikely to encounter many dangerous situations. On top of their grief, the shock must have been immense.

"Along with the fact that his remains were never found," Ross said, "so you wonder and his daughter still wonders 75 years later what happened. Might he have survived? Because one crew member did."

Don G. Ross, who previously wrote a memoir about his own life including a harrowing life-threatening illness and lengthy hospitalization, said that collecting information on his uncle and producing a book has been fulfilling on many levels.

"I had some great material to work with, once I identified it. So, it was personally gratifying to write it and have it come out in a way that I was happy with it and that his family in particular was happy with it and [they were] thrilled and most appreciative," he said. "Bev kept saying I can't believe you're doing all this for my dad and for us. I said hey, I'm lovin' it!"

He encourages anyone interested in family history to consider writing it down in a format that can be shared. Writing your own history – and there are memoir courses you can take for assistance – will also be of interest to your friends and family, and potentially future generations.

"I believe everybody has one good book in them, because they can write about their life, their lessons learned, people have been through marriages, divorces, deaths, children, career successes, career failures, illness," he said.

Don Ross has a few copies of his book, *In Defence of Home and Country: The Story of World War II Pilot Donald Alexander Ross*, which you can purchase by getting in touch with the author at dross.manorhill@rogers.com. He also intends on donating copies to the Haliburton County Public Library.

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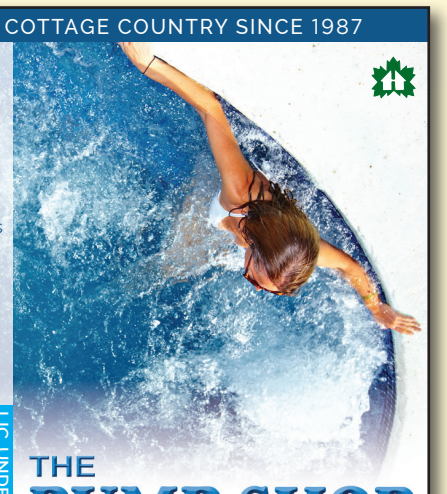

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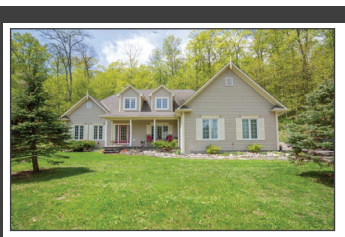

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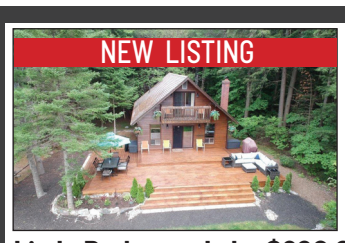

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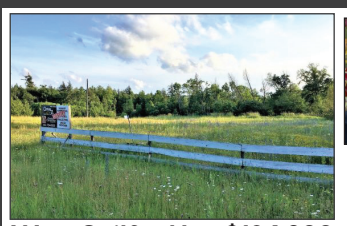

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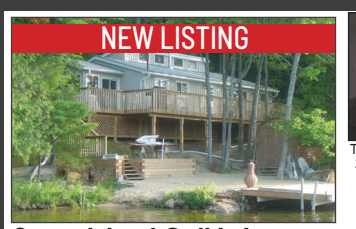

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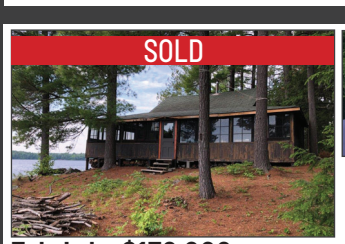

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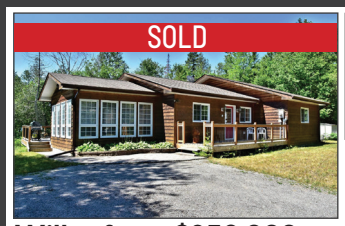

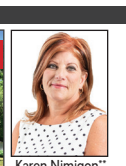

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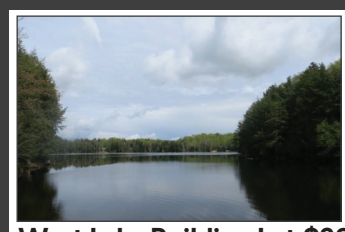

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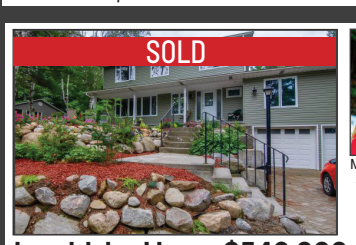

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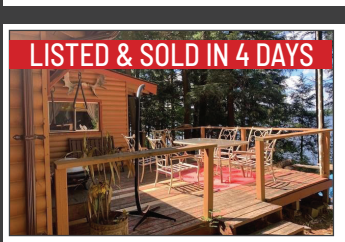

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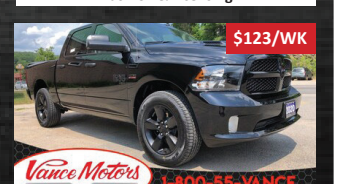

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MSRP $48,906 OUR PRICE $36,473
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V6 / NAV / DVD / HTD SEATS / BACKUP CAM / PARK ASSIST / PWR LIFTGATE / REMOTE START / PWR DOORS / BLUETOOTH / SATELLITE RADIO!
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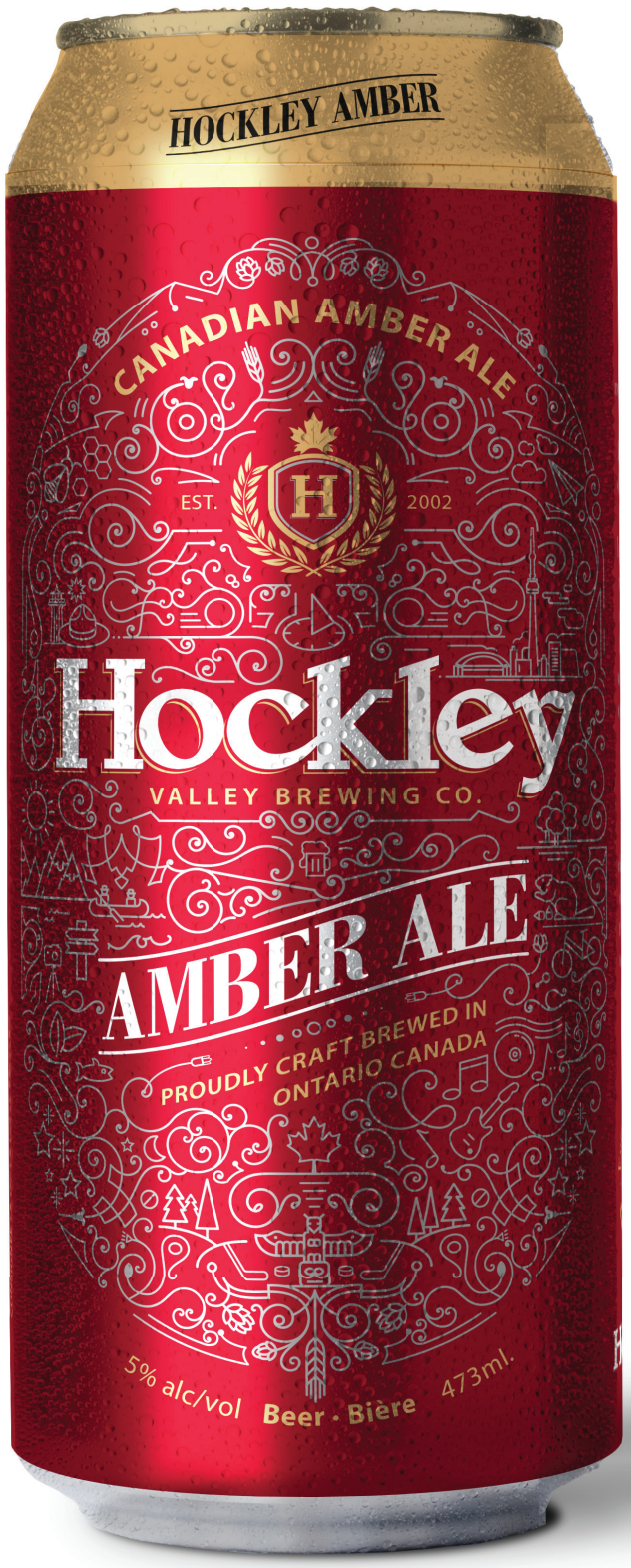

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Finally.

After years of waiting the, approval for the construction of the health facilities in Minden and Haliburton has been received from the Ministry of Health.

Victoria-Haliburton MPP Chris Hodgson delivered the long-anticipated news, Saturday evening, before a full house, at the Health Services Foundation Mid-Summer Gala at PineStone Resort. "This is a great day for the Haliburton Highlands," the MPP said as he read the letter from the Minister of Health Elizabeth Witmer.

The MPP had more good news, telling the audience that the Ministry of Health will cover $3.9 million in additional expenses for the project, which means the community share drops to $5.5 million. "With approximately $1.5 million already collected, the local fund-raising effort is now $4 million and that is achievable," he told the ecstatic crowd.

Health Services Board Chair, Hugh Nichol, thanked the MPP for the good news. He expressed his appreciation to the health services board members, past and present. "There are some who may have thought we would not have reached this point, but with hard work and dedication on the part of the board and staff we forged ahead....and now we're going to do it!" He told the gathering.

Nichol had particular praise for the role played by MPP Hodgson. "Without his work we would not have come this far," Nichol said. "Our communities owe you a great debt of gratitude."

Following the presentations Nichol and executive director Foster Loucks signed the contract between the board and the general contractor, to seal the agreement. Construction is scheduled to begin on September 14 at both Minden and Haliburton locations. (See page 2 for computer renderings of the new health facilities.)

An evening of dancing, celebration and fund-raising followed, with auctions and the selection of the raffle winners. Al Lalonde of Unionville was the winner of the diamond necklace donated by Bill and Sandy Valentine. (Ticket sold by Lee Oster). Winner of the Bateman print was Dale Walker of Haliburton while Wendy Bolt of Waterloo won the Highlands Resorts entertainment package.

While Haliburton County Warden, Murray Fearrey, and Victoria-Haliburton MPP, Chris Hodgson, look on, Health Services executive director Foster Loucks and board chair, Hugh Nichol, sign the contract for the construction of new health facilities in Minden and Haliburton.

Little support for zoning changes

by Jerry Grozelle

Minden's downtown merchants made it clear they don't agree with the proposal to allow all forms of retail businesses to locate along the Highway 35 corridor.

The council of Anson, Hindon and Minden has proposed amending the Official Plan to allow any sized retail establishment along Highway 35. The current by-law allows retail businesses of 6,000 square feet or more. There are a few existing businesses which do not conform to that regulation.

The municipality held a meeting Thursday evening before the regular council meeting to hear the opinions of anyone who cared to comment on the proposed amendments to the Official Plan.

The majority of those present spoke in opposition to the proposal, with the general consensus being that allowing virtually any type of business to operate along the highway would have a detrimental effect on the downtown businesses and the character of Minden's downtown area.

Anson, Hindon and Minden Reeve Jeanne Anthon began the meeting by outlining the reasoning behind the proposed amendment. She told the audience of about 25 people that the issue was a critical one that deserved effective dialogue. She added that the issue has been debated for many years, without much in the way of change until two years ago, "when council wanted to explore economic opportunities and development for our community in the face of local economic hardships, including difficulties facing our downtown businesses."

Bob Lehman, a planner from Barrie, strongly recommended opening the Minden by-pass to retail uses, supporting his recommendation with examples based on similar situations in other communities across Ontario. Lehman's recommendation was rejected at that time, but the fact that the downtown area was not able to accommodate large operations, those over 6,000 square feet, was recognized. With that in mind, council passed a zoning change that would allow retail operations of 6,000 square feet or more within the highway commercial designation. That amendment was passed in 1997, without any objections.

"The issue won't go away," Anthon said. " She added that the pressure continues to allow less restrictive retail uses on the Minden by-pass, following trends in other communities, which indicate that Minden may miss some opportunities if council doesn't act.

"The Chamber of Commerce indicates there has been recent interest in development for our by-pass," Anthon said. "we are asking the community -- do you want council to reject economic opportunities, jobs, services, etc, because they want to have the Highway 35 exposure?

"We have done our homework around planning issues. Council felt it was time to go to the public and open effective communication and dialogue with the stakeholders of our commu-

(more on page 3)

Look for us on Tuesday next week

Due to the Labour Day holiday Monday, the next edition of *The Times* will be published on Tuesday, September 8. Subscriptions will be mailed on that date and *The Times* will be available in retail outlets. Have a safe and enjoyable long weekend.

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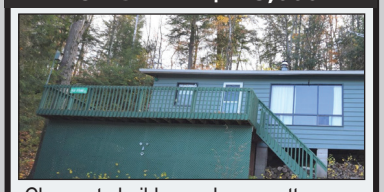

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3-bdrm, 1 bath home is perfectly situated in the town of Minden. Large living area with beautiful bay window. Many upgrades. A Fully unfinished basement awaits your finishing touch. The oversized level yard. Great privacy on a quiet road. Municipal water and sewers and school bus route.

SUMMERVILLE ROAD $199,00

Affordable retreat. 2-bdrm, 1 bath cottage situated on a 1.02-acre lot. Just minutes from the town of Gooderham, public beach and boat launch. Cute and cozy living space. Full basement awaits your finishing touch. Level to sloping lot surrounded by mature trees and beautiful views of pond. Being sold "as is."

HAND DRIVE $99,000

This property is the perfect handyman special. This unfinished cottage sits on a 1.78-acre parcel. Large windows allowing ample natural lighting. Interior awaits your finishing touch. 100 amp service installed. Very private with municipal access to Salerno Lake right across the road. This property is being sold "as is."

VACANT LOTS

Drag Lake $469,000 7.24AC
Drag Lake $349,900 3.51AC
West Lake $349,000 0.60AC
NEW LISTING Colbourne Lk $299,900 1.98 AC
Colborne Lake $289,000 4.83AC **SOLD**
Paddys Bay $259,000 45.72AC
Basshaunt Lake Road $47,000 2.36 AC
Cattail Road $45,000 0.86AC
South Drive $29,500 2.22AC
West Court Place $29,000 2.43AC

THINKING OF SELLING?

Call LINDA at 705-457-6508 for your free property evaluation